

**Howard County Consumer Protection
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

- Present: Marshall McLeod, Young Smith, Jill Bussey (by phone), Ronnie Sanderson, Katherine Bornstein
- Absent: Richard Green

Minutes of the January meeting were approved as read.

County Landlord-Tenant Legislation

Mary Clay, Special Assistant to Councilwoman Mary Kay Sigaty provided the Board with a draft of the legislation Ms. Sigaty plans to file in April. The draft is generally the same as the draft previously reviewed by the Board. Ms. Sigaty hopes to file the bill on April 2 and that the bill will be heard on April 16. Board members may testify on the bill as residents of the County and Becky will provide the Board with information regarding its ability to testify. Ms. Clay thanked the Board and OCP staff for their assistance in drafting the bill.

Ms. Clay also advised the Board that some members of the Oakland Mills community have expressed the hope that the County would adopt legislation modeled after Baltimore City's law that would give residents the ability to report "bad landlords" to the police. Ms. Clay had explained that this is not the purpose of the bill but will encourage this person to contact OCP to discuss his concerns and possible options.

2018 Student Loan Forum – Becky provided the Board audience feedback obtained from the event surveys. Over 90% of attendees surveyed provided positive feedback on the information provided, its applicability to their situations and the speakers' understanding of the topic, and would recommend the program to others. Ronnie stated that she believed that the program was better organized this year. The Board discussed the value of having a well-know "keynote" speaker (e.g. elected official) provide opening comments. In some instances audience members stated that such speakers took up too much time. Jill stated that the time take would be OK if the speaker brings value to the event.

2018 National Consumer Protection Week event – Becky advised the Board that the Shred ID Theft event was postponed to March 10 due to weather conditions on March 3.

Announcements and new business:

- Jill commended OCP for its alert on Storm Recovery Scams.
- Jill advised the Board that, for personal reasons, she will not be seeking a second term on the Board when her appointment ends in May.
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The meeting was adjourned at 8:05

The next meeting of the Consumer Protection Advisory Board will be held at 7pm on Wednesday, April 5 in the Office of Consumer Protection's conference room.